

Discharge of Garbage Restricted

Poster GP03

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Discharge of all garbage into the sea is prohibited except provided otherwise

The MARPOL Convention, Polar Code and domestic law prohibit the discharge of most garbage from ships. Only the following garbage types are allowed to be discharged and under the specified conditions.

Outside Special Areas designated under MARPOL Annex V (except for Arctic Waters):

- Comminuted or ground food wastes (capable of passing through a screen with openings no larger than 25 millimetres) may be discharged not less than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land.
- Other food wastes may be discharged not less than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land.
- Cargo residues classified as not harmful to the marine environment may be discharged not less than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land.
- Cleaning agents or additives in cargo hold, deck and external surfaces washing water may be discharged only if they are not harmful to the marine environment.
- With the exception of discharging cleaning agents in washing water, the ship must be en route and as far as practicable from the nearest land.

Inside Special Areas designated under MARPOL Annex V

- More stringent discharge requirements apply for the discharges of food wastes and cargo residues; AND
- Consult Annex V, Polar Code and the shipboard garbage management plan for details.

For all areas of the sea, ships carrying specialized cargo such as live animals or solid bulk cargoes should consult Annex V and the associated Guidelines for the implementation of Annex V.

Discharge of any type of garbage must be entered in the Garbage Record Book
Violation of these requirements may result in penalties

Refer to Poster GP02 for details on garbage disposal in Polar Waters (Arctic and Antarctic sea areas)